This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-104. (canceled)

105.   (currently amended) A system for distributing music to ~~a plurality of~~ at least one ~~customer~~ customer households, the system comprising:

(a)   a data transmission system for blanket transmitting ~~a plurality of~~ at least one music selections to the ~~plurality of~~ at least one customer households in digital format;

(b)   a user station for placement at the ~~plurality of~~ at least one customer households, enabling the at least one customer household to preview the ~~plurality of~~ at least one music selections a predetermined number of times before billing the at least one customer household for the ~~plurality of~~ at least one music selections, the user station including:

i. a user interface for permitting the at least one customer household to preselect a transmitted music selection for recording;

ii. a receiver;

iii. a high capacity storage medium, in communication with the receiver for recording the preselected music selection in digital form; and

iv. an audio output for outputting audio signals from the high capacity storage medium to a playback device for enabling the at least one customer household to playback the recorded music selection;

v. a circuit for degrading a quality of the previewed preselected music selections by compressing the preselected music selections by a process selected from the group consisting of:

compressing the preselected music selections;

adding distortion to the preselected music selections; overlaying voice over the preselected music selections; and deleting sections from the preselected music selections;

vi. an anti-piracy module to embed an ID tag in decoded music selections;

vii. an output device for supplying the decoded music selections to the at least one customer household from a decoder;

(c)   a central controller system having a database for storing therein information corresponding to the at least one customer household and having a key unique to the music

selections;

(d)   a communications link <u>for placement</u> between the <u>at least one</u> customer household and the central controller system for verifying to the controller system when a preselected music selection has been made available for playback; and

(e)   a billing system associated with the central controller system to bill the <u>at least one</u> customer household for a music selection that has been made available for playback.

106.   (currently amended) A system for distributing music to a~~plurality~~~~of~~ <u>at least one</u> ~~customer~~ customer households, the system comprising:

(a) a data transmission system for blanket transmitting a~~plurality~~~~of~~ <u>at least one</u> music selections to the ~~plurality~~~~of~~ <u>at least one</u> customer households in digital format;

(b) a user station <u>to be placed</u> at the ~~plurality~~~~of~~ <u>at least one</u> customer households, the user station including:

i. a user interface for permitting the <u>at least one</u> customer household to preselect desired transmitted music selections for recording and permitting each of the plurality of customer households to designate the music preference information;

ii. a receiver and associated high capacity storage medium for recording the preselected music selection in digital form; and

iii. an audio output for outputting audio signals to a playback device for enabling the <u>at least one</u> customer household to playback the recorded music selection;

<u>iv. an anti-piracy module to embed an ID tag in decoded music selections;</u>

<u>v. an output device for supplying the decoded music selections to the at least one customer household from a decoder;</u>

(c)   a central controller system having a database for storing therein information corresponding to ~~each~~ <u>the at least one</u> customer household <u>and having a key unique to the music selections</u>, wherein the central controller system further:

automatically enables blanket transmission to ~~each~~~~of~~~~the~~~~plurality~~~~of~~ <u>the</u> user stations of music content without requiring music selections from the user stations according to assigned customer profiles,

assigns a customer profiles according to ~~each~~~~of~~ the ~~plurality~~~~of~~ <u>the at least one</u> households music preference information communicated by the user station to the central

controller system; and further comprises:

a customer preference information storage memory for receiving and

storing ~~each of the plurality of~~ the at least one customer households designated music preference

information;

a general population preference database for storing preference

information for ~~all of the plurality of~~ the at least one customer households;

a customer catalog generator for analyzing the customer preference

information storage memory and the general population preference database to create an

individual customer catalog for ~~each of the plurality of~~ the at least one customer households

that determines which music is automatically blanket transmitted;

(d)   a communications link between each of the plurality of customer

households and the central controller system for verifying to the controller system when a

preselected music selection has been made available for playback; and

(e)   a billing system associated with the central controller system to bill the

customer household for music selections that are made available for playback.

107.   (currently amended) A method for distributing music to ~~a plurality of~~ at least one

customer households, the method comprising the steps of:

(a)   blanket transmitting ~~a plurality of~~ at least one music selections to the ~~plurality~~

~~of~~ at least one customer households in digital format;

(b)   providing a customer household with information identifying the at least one

music selections that will be transmitted;

(c)   preselecting and recording the at least one transmitted music selection at the at

least one customer household on a high capacity storage medium;

(d)   enabling the at least one customer household to preview the preselected music

selection a predetermined number of times, utilizing a user station comprising a circuit for

degrading quality of the previewed preselected music selections previewed by a process selected

from the group consisting of:

compressing the preselected music selections;

adding distortion to the preselected music selections;

overlaying voice over the preselected music selections; and deleting sections from the

preselected music selections

(e)   enabling the customer household to playback the ~~recorded~~ preselected music selection;

(f)   embedding an ID tag in decoded music selections;

(g)   supplying the decoded music selections to the at least one customer household from a decoder via an output device;

~~(f)~~ (h)   ~~communicating~~ receiving music playback information from the customer household ~~to~~ at a central controller system having a key unique to the music selections; and

~~(g)~~ (i)   billing the customer household for the ~~recorded~~ preselected music selection that has been played back, based on the communicated music playback information.

108.   (currently amended) A method for distributing music to ~~a plurality of~~ at least one customer households, the method comprising the steps of:

(a)   blanket transmitting ~~a plurality of~~ at least one music selections to the ~~plurality of~~ at least one customer households in digital format, the blanket transmitting including the steps of:

i. assigning to ~~each of~~ the ~~plurality of~~ at least one customer households a customer profile according to ~~each of the plurality of households~~ music preference information of the at least one household communicated to the central controller system,

ii. permitting ~~each of~~ the ~~plurality of~~ at least one customer households to designate the music preference information,

iii. receiving and storing ~~each of~~ the ~~plurality of~~ at least one customer households designated music preference information at the central controller system,

iv. storing preference information for ~~all of~~ the ~~plurality of~~ at least one customer households, and

v. analyzing the preference information for ~~each of~~ the at least one households and the general population to create an individual customer catalog for ~~each of~~ the ~~plurality of~~ at least one customer households that determines which music is automatically blanket transmitted, and

vi. blanket transmitting to ~~each of~~ the ~~plurality of~~ at least one customer households music content according to the assigned customer profile;

(b)   providing ~~each of~~ the ~~plurality of~~ <u>at least one</u> customer households with information identifying available music selections that will be transmitted;

(c)   permitting ~~each of~~ the ~~plurality of~~ <u>at least one</u> customer households to preselect and record desired music selections on a high capacity storage medium;

(d)   enabling ~~each~~ <u>the at least one</u> customer household to playback the recorded music selections;

<u>(e) embedding an ID tag in decoded music selections;</u>

<u>(f) supplying the decoded music selections to the at least one customer household from a decoder via an output device;</u>

~~(e)~~ <u>(g)</u>   ~~communicating~~ <u>receiving</u> music playback information from the customer household ~~to~~ <u>at</u> a central controller system <u>having a key unique to the music selections</u>; and

~~(f)~~ <u>(h)</u>   billing ~~each of~~ the ~~plurality of~~ <u>at least one</u> customer households for the recorded music selections that are made available for playback.